

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

New genus of Umbelliferæ.—WITH PLATE XXXII.—Mr. John Donnell Smith has recently sent us from his last collection in Central America a new genus of Umbelliferæ. This is a most peculiar plant, not closely related to any known genus, nor is it easily referred to any tribe. It becomes a small tree fifteen feet high and is the only arborescent species which we have seen from North America. Only two plants were seen, growing at an altitude of 10,200^{ft} and constituting the highest vegetation on the volcano.

This is the third genus of Umbelliferæ that has been brought to light by Mr. Smith in Central America. We have previously reported upon Guatemalan Umbelliferæ in this journal for January and October, 1890, and February, 1893.

Myrrhidendron, genus nov.—Calyx teeth obsolete. Fruit linear, flattened dorsally, glabrous, shining. Carpels strongly flattened dorsally; dorsal and intermediate ribs low; lateral ribs narrow-winged. Stylopodium low conical. Oil-tubes solitary in the intervals, two on the commissural side. Seed strongly flattened dorsally, with a flat face and furrowed under the oil-tubes.—Arborescent. Leaves large, decomposed; leaflets ovate. Flowers white.

A peculiar genus, with fruit of the shape and texture of *Myrrhis* but differently flattened. The carpels are flattened as in *Peucedaneæ* but in other respects unlike that tribe.

Myrrhidendron Donnellsmithii sp. nov.—A small tree 3.6 to 4.8^m high; trunk 7.5^{cm} in diameter: leaves large, 30^{cm} or more long, ternately compound; leaflets ovate to lanceolate, 2.5 to 5.0^{cm} long, acute, sharply and often irregularly serrate, the teeth more or less mucronate-tipped, glabrous, shining and impressed veiny above, dull and paler beneath and conspicuously reticulate; petiolules with a prominent stipular ring which is more or less glandular tufted; petioles large, inflated: peduncles short: involucre few-leaved; involucels numerous, 3- to 4-toothed or cleft near the apex, scarious margined and strongly purplish veined: inflorescence more or less glandular puberulent; rays numerous, rarely equal; pedicels 8 to 10^{mm} long: fruit linear, 10 to 12^{mm} long, glabrous.—From the lava beds at the summit of the volcano Irazii in the province of Cartago, Costa Rica, March, 1894 (no. 4,825).—JOHN M. COULTER and J. N. ROSE, *Lake Forest, Ill.*, and *Washington, D. C.*